and 2 Union Territories participated in the scheme in the Rabi 1997-98 season.

COS is under implementation in Orissa State. During the year 1997-98, the crops covered in the State are paddy, groundnut in Kharif and paddy, ground-nut and mustard in rabi season.

Compensation under the Crop Insurance us worked out on the basis of yield data made available by the concerned State at the end of the crop season.

For 1997-98, complete yield data for both the crop seasons is not yet made available, therefore an assessment for the total claims for the year 1997-98 cannot be made, Compensation for 1998-99 cannot be worked out as the crop seasonfs) actually have not commenced.

Fall in Rice Production in Orissa

162. SHRI RAHASBIHARI BARIK: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a)whether production of rice in Orissa is not satisfactory;

(b)if so, the reasions therefor;

(c)the reasons for continuous decrease in production of rice;

(d)whether any new strategy has been prepared to increase rice production in Orissa; and

(e)if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) to (c) The average production of rice in Orissa has increased from 47.44 lakh tonnes during the triennium ending 1986-87 to 56.52 lakh tonnes during the triennium ending 1996-97. Though there is increasing trend in production of rice is Orissa, it has not increased to the desired extent and has fluctuated year to year depending on the rainfall behaviour. Some of the major constraint impending the production of rice in Orissa are; dependence of the larger crop areas on monsoon, less coverage under location specific high yielding varieties, low input use, water logging, occurence of drought, floods and cyclones, etc.

(d) and (e) For increasing the production of rice the strategy proposed to be adopted by the State includes enhancing the seed replacement rate of rice, creation of additional irrigation potential, promoting the use of fertiliers, encouraging the mechanisation in rice cultivation etc. Besides, to supplement the efforts of the State Government in increasing the production and productivity of rice the Government of India is also implementing a centrally sponsored scheme "Integrated Cereals Development Programme in Rice Based Cropping System's Area's (ICDP-Rice)" in Orissa.

Loss of Orange Crops in Maharashtra

163. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a)whether it is a fact that crop of oranges in Nagpur in Maharashtra were almost destroyed due to untimely rains during winters of 1997-98;

(b)If so, the details thereof;

(c)whether Government have provided any relief or compensation to the organge growers of Nagpur division; and

(d)if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPALV (a) No report has been received from the Governmciii of Maharashtra in this regard.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Suicides Committed by Farmers in Karnataka

164. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJ ARY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of suicides committed by farmers in Karnataka due to indebtedness; if so, the number of farmers who committed suicides during the last four months;

(b)whether Government have provided any relief by way of financial assistance to the families of such farmers; if so, the details thereof; and

(c)what measures Government are taking/have taken to prevent farmers from indebtedness?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) to (c) The Government of Karnataka has reported 29 suicidal deaths which includes 13 as a result of damage to crops. The State Government has sanctioned ex-gratia of Rs. 1.00 lakh each in 13 suicide cases and has also released Rs. 4.00 crore as one-time assistance in the form of input subsidy to the affected small and marginal farmers.

It is primarily the responsibility of the State Government to provide relief to the people affected by natural calamities. The Government of India provides additional assistance. If any, from the National Fund for Calamity Relief (NFCR), in the event of calamities of rare severity.

गौ-बध पर पूर्ण प्रतिबंध

165. **श्री ओंकार सिंह लखावत** : क्या प्रधान मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या सरकार गौ एवं गौ-वंश की हत्या पर पूर्ण प्रतिबंध लगाने का विचार रखती हैं: यदि हां, तो सरकार द्वारा किए जा रहे प्रयासों का ब्यौरा क्या है; और

(ख) क्या सरकार गोशालाओं एवं गो-पालकों को विशेष आर्थिक सहायता देती है; यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है?

कृषी मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (**श्री सोमपाल**) : अधिकांश राज्यों/संघ शासित प्रदेशों में पहले से ही ऐसे कानून है जिनमें गायों तथा उसकी संतति के वध पर प्रतिबंध लगाया गया है।

(ख) राष्ट्रीय सांड उत्पादन कार्यक्रम नामक केन्द्रीय प्रायोजित योजनागत स्कीम के तहत उन गौशालाओम के लिए ढ़ांचागत सुविधाओं के सुधार के लिए सहायता प्रदान की जाती है, जो सहयोजित पशुयूथ संतति परीक्षण कार्यक्रम में भाग लेती है।

Losses due to Stroms in West Bengal and Orissa

166. SHRI KULDIP NAYYAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the loss of life, property and crops due to storms in Orissa and West Bengal in the third week of March, 1998; and

(b) the amount of money given as relief to the victims of the storm?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) According to the information received from the State Governments, the Tornado of third week of March, 1998, claimed 24 human lives and damaged about 2,000 houses and public property valued at about 4.71 crore in Orissa and claimed 48 human lives and damaged 3000 haectares of cropped areas, 5702 houses and public property worth Rs. 30.10 crore in West Bengal.

(b) The State Governments of Orissa and West Bengal have sanctioned Rs. 3.62 crores and Rs. 2.46 crore respectively for providing relief to the affected people.

किसानों द्वारा किस्म के बीजों का प्रयोग

167. **चौधरी हरमोहन सिंह यादव** : क्या प्रधान मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या यह सच है कि किसान घटिया किस्म के बीजों का प्रयोग कर रहे हैं जिसमें कृषि उत्पादन बुरी तरह प्रभावित हो रहा है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है; और

(ग) सरकार द्वारा अच्छे किस्म के बीज प्रदान करने के लिये क्या प्रयास किये गये हैं?

कृषि मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (**श्री सोमपाल**) :

(क) जी नहीं ।

(ख) प्रश्न ही नहीं होता।

(ग) किसानों को अच्छे किस्म के बीज उपलब्ध कराना राज्य सरकारों की जिम्मेदारी है।

-- तथापि भारत सरकार किस्मों की निमुक्त/ अधिसूचना की प्रंणाली तथा प्राप्त मांग